Tunisia - President Bourguiba

(Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders)

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 6958

PAGE 01 STATE 050847

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ORIGIN SS-25

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APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER
S/S: REWOODS
WHITE HOUSE: MR. OAKLEY
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TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ STATE 050847

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, TS
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA;
VISITS OF NOUIRA AND BOURGUIBA, JR.
REF: TUNIS 0954

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRES. FORD HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO AMB. HEDDA FOR PRES. BOURGUIBA: QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I SINCERELY REGRET THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO VISIT ME IN WASHINGTON THIS SPRING. BUT I WANT TO ASSURE YOU OF MY FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE REASONS WHICH PROMPTED YOUR DECISION. WHILE I GREATLY LOOKED FORWARD TO A PERSONAL MEETING WITH YOU AND THE BENEFIT OF YOUR WISE COUNSEL, I ALSO BELIEVE -- KNOWING THE BURDENS OF YOUR OFFICE -- THAT YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE GREAT TASKS WHICH YOU FACE IN SERVING THE TUNISIAN NATION. I AM REASSURED, AS MY PREDECESSORS HAVE BEEN, BY YOUR STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO THE WARM AND CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. I WANT TO REAFFIRM THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO THE CONTINUATION OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN

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TUNISIA AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT US TOGETHER IN A COMMON SEARCH FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS IN TUNISIA, IN YOUR REGION AND AROUND THE WORLD. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO HAVE A HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. INASMUCH AS YOU ARE PRECLUDED FROM COMING TO WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME, I WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY OF A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA, IF YOU BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE.

3. MR. PRESIDENT, MAY I EXTEND TO YOU MY VERY BEST PERSONAL WISHES AND APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE WHICH YOU ARE PLAYING IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR NATIONS. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD. UNQUOTE.

4. PLEASE INFORM GOT THAT DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED SIGNED COPY OF LETTER TO AMBASSADOR HEDDA FOR TRANSMITTAL TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. AMBASSADOR SEELYE MAY ALSO INFORM GOT THAT INVITATION TO NOUIRA IS FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT ON MAY 1, TO INCLUDE A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND A SMALL WORKING DINNER AND THAT, IF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IS AGREEABLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF THAT DATE ASAP.

5. FYI: DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ORALLY TO AMBASSADOR HEDDA ON THE ISSUE OF THE REQUEST FOR BOURGUIBA, JR.: THE PRESIDENT FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE REASONS FOR THE CANCELLATION OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S STATE VISIT BUT HE IS DELIGHTED TO INVITE PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT IN HIS PLACE. BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SCHEDULES ARE EXTREMELY HEAVY FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, MAKING AN ADDED MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR BOURGUIBA, JR. VERY DIFFICULT SINCE THEY WOULD WANT TO RECEIVE HIM PROPERLY. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S OWN VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A MEETING WITH BOURGUIBA, JR. AT THIS TIME, IN LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA. END FYI.

6. WE ASSUME THAT AMBASSADOR SEELYE WILL BE ASKED ABOUT THE REQUEST FOR A PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH

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BOURGUIBA, JR. UNTIL YOU RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, YOU SHOULD REPLY THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR HEDDA. INGERSOLL

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Department of State TELEGRAM

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NODIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AO
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

REF : TUNIS 0140

FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASY TRANSLATION OF LETTER BY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO PRESIDENT FOR TRANSMITTED REFTEL:

MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE STUDIED WITH KEEN INTEREST THE LETTER WHICH YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SEND ME INFORMING ME OF YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE ANGOLA PROBLEM.

AS YOU KNOW, TUNISIA HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA IN THE FIGHT WHICH IT WAGED TO LIBERATE ITSELF FROM PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD DETERMINE ITS FUTURE IN A DEMOCRATIC AND SOVEREIGN WAY ONCE ITS INDEPENDENCE WAS ACQUIRED.

I HAVE PERSONALLY COME TO THE CONLUSION THAT EACH OF THE THREE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF ANGOLA HAS INDISPUTABLE POPULAR SUPPORT AND THAT THEY SHOULD, THEREFORE, ALL THREE BE ASSOCIATED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW STATE. THERFORE, I HAVE MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO HELP IN THE CREATION OF A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines state review 9/17/03
By ____, NARA, Date 3/9/04

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ALSO, I HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS EXPRESSED TUNISIA'S DESIRE TO SEE THE END OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLAN AFFAIRS, JUDGING THAT IF IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY FREEDOM-LOVING NATION TO GIVE AID TO PEOPLES CASTING OFF THE YOKE OF COLONIALISM, NO COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER AND TO IMPOSE ON AN ENTIRE PEOPLE ANY OF ITS FACTIONS.

THIS IS WHY TUNISIA HAS DECIDED TO OPPOSE ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, IN AFFIARS WHICH CONCERN THE EXCLUSIVE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

I AM ESPECIALLY FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE INTERVENTION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND REJECT THE ARGUMENTS IT ADVANCES TO JUSTIFY ITS PRESENCE IN ANGOLA, AND PARTICULARLY, THE FALACIOUS PRETEXT OF "HOT PERSUIT".

I AM OF TE OPINON THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THIS PRESENCE IS SUCH AS TO BRING THE MOST SERIOS HARM TO THEINTERSTS OF THE FNLA AND L'UNITA, BY MAKING THESE TWO MOVEMENTS APPEAR TO BE DE FACTO ALLIES OF THE APARTHEID REGIME.

FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SHOULD AIM AT PERSUADING THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLAN TERRITORY, SOMETHING WHICH WOULD NOT FAIL TO INCITE THE OTHER FOREIGN FORCES TO DO THE SAME OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, TO SUBJDCT THEM TO THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLES AND OTHER BY DEPRIVING THEM OF A MAJOR JUSTIFICATION.

I SHARE YOUR CONVICTION THAT GREAT POWER RIVALRIES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM AFRICA BUT I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT TO OBTAIN A PROMPT WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRO-SOVIET FORCES IN ANGOLA, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SHOULD PUT SERIOUS PRESSURES ON THE SOVIET UNION.

SUCH A DEMARCHE -- ACCOMPANIED BY ACTION IN REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA -- WILL, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HAVE CONSIDERABLE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE ENTIRE CONTINENT AND A DECISIVE EFFECT ON THE POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IN THE WORLD BECAUSE IT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE DETERMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE ALL ATTEMPTS BY THE SOVIETS TO EXTEND

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THEIR INFLUENCE "OUTSIDE THEIR TRADITIONAL SECURITY AREA."

TUNISIA IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS FOR A RECONCILAIATION AMONG THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WHICH COULD PERMIT THE COUNTRY TO UNDERTAKE MEASURES TO ALLOW THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON THE REGIME AND THE LEADERS OF ITS CHOICE.

THIS, IN ITS BROAD LINES, IS THE POSITION WHICH TUNISIA WILL STRIVE TO SEE PREVAIL AT ADDIS ABABA ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. SALUTARY CLOSE, SIGNED HABIB BOURGHIBA.
KING

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E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AO
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

THERE FOLLOWS FRENCH ORIGINAL OF PRESIDENT BOURGIUBA'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ON ANGOLA. INFORMAL TRANSLATION AND ORAL COMMENTS OF PRESIDENTIAL AIDE DELIVERING LETTER CONTAINED NEXT TWO TELS.

CARTHAGE, LE 9 JANVIER 1976

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT,

J'AI PRIS CONNAISSANCE AVEC UN VIF INTERET DE LA LETTRE QUE VOUS AVEZ BIEN VOULU M'ADRESSER POUR ME FAIRE PART DE VOS VUES CONCERNANT LE PROBLEME ANGOLAIS.

COMME VOUS LE SAVEZ, LA TUNISIE A TOUJOURS APPORTE SON AIDE AU PEUPLE ANGOLAIS DANS LA LUTTE QU'IL A MENEE POUR SE LIBERER DU COLONIALISME PORTUGAIS EN SOUHAITANT QU'IL SE PRONONCE, SOUVERAINEMENT ET DEMOCRATIQUEMENT, SUR SON AVENIR, UNE FOIS SON INDEPENDANCE ACQUISE.

J'AI, PERSONNELLEMENT, ABOUTI A LA CONCLUSION QUE CHACUN DES TROIS MOUVEMENTS DE LIBERATION ANGOLAIS, DISPOSE D'ASSISES POPULAIRES INDISCUTABLES ET QU'ILS DOIVENT DONC ETRE TOUS TROIS ASSOCIES DANS LA CONTRUCTION DU NOUVEL ETAT. AUSSI, AI-JE DEPLOYE TOUS LES EFFORTS POSSIBLES POUR AIDER

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A L'INSTAURATION D'UN CLIMAT FAVORABLE AU DIALOGUE ET A LA RECONCILIATION.

PAR AILLEURS, J'AI EXPRIME A MAINTES REPRISES LE DESIR DE LA TUNISIE DE VOIR CESSER LES INTERVENTIONS ETRANGERES DANS LES AFFAIRES ANGOLIAISES ESTIMANT QUE, S'IL EST DU DEVOIR DE TOUT ETAT EPRIS DE LIBERTE D'AIDER LES PEUPLES A SE DEFAIRE DU JOUG COLONIAL, AUCUN PAYS, PAR CONTRE, N'A LE DROIT D'INTERVENIR DANS LES AFFAIRES INTERIEURES D'UN AUTRE ET D'IMPOSER L'UNE DE SES FACTIONS A TOUT UN PEUPLE.

C'EST POURQUOI LA TUNISIE EST DECIDEE A S'OPPOSER A TOUTE IMMIXTION ETRANGERE EN ANGOLA, DANS DES AFFAIRES QUI RELEVENT DE LA SOUVERAINETE EXCLUSIVE DU PEUPLE ANGOLIAS.

JE SUIS EN PARTICULIER FERMEMENT OPPOSE A L'INTERVENTION DE LA REPUBLIQUE SUD AFRICAINE, ET REJETTE LES ARGUMENTS QU'ELLE AVANCE POUR JUSTIFIER SA PRESENCE EN ANGOLA ET NOTAMMENT LE PRETEXTE FALLACIEUX DU "DROIT DE SUITE".

J'ESTIME QUE LE MAINTIEN DE CETTE PRESENCE EST DE NATURE A PORTER LE PLUS GRAVE PREJUDICE AUX INTERETS A PORTER LE PLUS GRAVE PREJUDICE AUX INTERETS DU F.L.N.A. ET DE L'U.N.I.T.A, EN PRESENTANT CES DEUX MOUVEMENTS COMME LES ALLIES DE FAIT DU REGIME DE L' APARTHEID.

POUR CETTE RAISON, JE CONSIDERE QUE L'ACTION DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE DEVRAIT TENDRE A AMENER LA REPUBLIQUE SUD AFRICAINE A SE RETIRER DU TERRITOIRE ANGOLAIS, CE QUI NE MANQUERA PAS D'INCITER LES AUTRES FORCES ETRANGERES A EN FAIRE AUTANT, OU, A TOUT LE MOINS, DE LES DESIGNER A LA DESAPPROBATION DES PEUPLES AFRICAINS ET AUTRES EN LES PRIVANT D'UNE JUSTIFICATION MAJEURE.

JE PARTAGE VOTRE CONVICTION QUE LES RIVALITES DES GRANDES PUISSANCES DEVRAIENT ETRE EXCLUES DE L'AFRIQUE, MAINS DEMEURE PERSUADE QUE, POUR OBTENIR UN RETRAIT RAPIDE DES FORCES PROSOVIETIQUES EN ANGOLA, LES ETATS-UNIS DEVRAIENT EXERCER UNE PRESSION SERIEUSE SUR L'UNION SOVIETIQUE.

UNE TELLE DEMARCHE, DOUBLEE D'UNE ACTION SUR L'AFRIQUE DU

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SUD, AURA, A N'EN PAS DOUTER, DES REPERCUSSIONS CONSIDERABLES SUR L'ENSEMBLE DU CONTIENT ET DES EFFETS DETERMINANTS SUR L'EQUILIBRE POLITIQUE EN MEDITERRANEE ET DANS LE MONDE, DANS LA MESURE OU ELLE DEMONTRERA LA DETERMINATION DES ETATS-UNIS A S'OPPOSER A TOUTE TENTATIVE DES SOVIETIQUES D'ETENDRE LEUR INFLUENCE "EN DEHORS DE LEUR ZONE TRADITIONNELLE DE SECURITE".

LA TUNISIE CONTINUE SES EFFORTS POUR UNE RECONCILIATION ENTRE LES TROIS MOUVEMENTS DE LIBERATION EN VUE DE LA FORMATION D'UN GOUVERNEMENT D'UNION NATIONALE QUI POURRAIT ENGAGER LE PAYS DANS UN PROCESSUS PERMETTANT AU PEUPLE ANGOLAIS DE SE PRONONCER SUR LE REGIME ET LES HOMMES DE SON CHOIX.

TELLE EST, DANS SES GRANDES LIGNES, LA POSITION QUE LA TUNISIE ESSAIERA DE FAIRE VALOIR A ADDIS-ABEBA, A L'OCCASION DE LA PROCHAINE CONFERENCE AU SOMMET DE L'ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE AFRICAINE.

VEUILLEZ AGREER, MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT, L'ASSURANCE DE MA TRES HAUTE CONSIDERATION.

HABIB BOURGUIBA

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 29, 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Tunisian President Bourguiba's Reply to President Ford's Letter on Angola

Attached is the original of President Bourguiba's January 9 letter to President Ford in response to President Ford's January 3 letter to President Bourguiba regarding Angola.

Both the French text and the informal English translations were submitted by the American Embassy in Tunis by cable on January 9, (Tunis telegrams 00140 and 00141 respectively).

No response is required.

Eric D. Newsom
for George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Original January 9 letter to President Ford

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines
By ____, NARA, Date 3/9/04

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RÉPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE

Le Président

Carthage, le 9 Janvier 1976

Monsieur le Président,

J'ai pris connaissance avec un vif intérêt de la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser pour me faire part de vos vues concernant le problème angolais.

Comme vous le savez, la Tunisie a toujours apporté son aide au peuple angolais dans la lutte qu'il a menée pour se libérer du colonialisme portugais en souhaitant qu'il se prononce, souverainement et démocratiquement, sur son avenir, une fois son indépendance acquise.

J'ai, personnellement, abouti à la conclusion que chacun des trois mouvements de libération angolais, dispose d'assises populaires indiscutables et qu'ils doivent donc être tous trois associés dans la construction du nouvel Etat. Aussi, ai-je déployé tous les efforts possibles pour aider à l'instauration d'un climat favorable au dialogue et à la réconciliation.

Par ailleurs, j'ai exprimé à maintes reprises le désir de la Tunisie de voir cesser les interventions étrangères dans les affaires angolaises estimant que, s'il est du devoir de tout Etat épris de

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liberté d'aider les peuples à se défaire du joug colonial, aucun pays, par contre, n'a le droit d'intervenir dans les affaires intérieures d'un autre et d'imposer l'une de ses factions à tout un peuple.

C'est pourquoi la Tunisie est décidée à s'opposer à toute immixtion étrangère en Angola, dans des affaires qui relèvent de la souveraineté exclusive du peuple angolais.

Je suis en particulier fermement opposé à l'intervention de la République Sud Africaine, et rejette les arguments qu'elle avance pour justifier sa présence en Angola et notamment le prétexte fallacieux du "droit de suite".

J'estime que le maintien de cette présence est de nature à porter le plus grave préjudice aux intérêts du F.L.N.A et de l'U.N.I.T.A , en présentant ces deux mouvements comme les alliés de fait du régime de l' apartheid.

Pour cette raison, je considère que l'action des Etats-Unis d'Amérique devrait tendre à amener la République Sud Africaine à se retirer du territoire angolais, ce qui ne manquera pas d'inciter les autres forces étrangères à en faire autant, ou, à tout le moins, de les désigner à la désapprobation des peuples africains et autres en les privant d'une justification majeure.

.../...

Je partage votre conviction que les rivalités des grandes puissances devraient être exclues de l'Afrique, mais demeure persuadé que, pour obtenir un retrait rapide des forces prosoviétiques en Angola, les Etats-Unis devraient exercer une pression sérieuse sur l'Union Soviétique.

Une telle démarche, doublée d'une action sur l'Afrique du Sud, aura, à n'en pas douter, des répercussions considérables sur l'ensemble du continent et des effets déterminants sur l'équilibre politique en Méditerranée et dans le monde, dans la mesure où elle démontrera la détermination des Etats-Unis à s'opposer à toute tentative des Soviétiques d'étendre leur influence "en dehors de leur zone traditionnelle de sécurité".

La Tunisie continue ses efforts pour une réconciliation entre les trois mouvements de libération en vue de la formation d'un Gouvernement d'union nationale qui pourrait engager le pays dans un processus permettant au peuple angolais de se prononcer sur le régime et les hommes de son choix.

Telle est, dans ses grandes lignes, la position que la Tunisie essaiera de faire valoir à Addis-Abeba, à l'occasion de la prochaine conférence au sommet de l'Organisation de l'Unité Africaine.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

Son Excellence
Monsieur Gérald R. FORD
Président des Etats Unis
d'Amérique

Bourguiba

Habib BOURGUIBA

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 18, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you and to your fellow citizens my warmest congratulations on the historic occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Tunisia.

This is a very special time for you and your people. In recognition of the deep admiration we have for you and your country, and in the spirit of close friendship our countries have enjoyed for two decades, I have asked Vice President Rockefeller to represent the United States of America at your celebration.

Throughout the twenty years of your independence, the United States and Tunisia have enjoyed warm and constructive relations based on mutual respect and on our common belief in human dignity. This is a relationship in which the United States takes great pride. We are committed to maintaining and strengthening our ties in the future.

Your wise leadership of Tunisia and its benefits to your people are recognized and applauded throughout the world. Tunisia, guided by moderation and realism, has served as a model for many other nations. We are gratified to have been able to play a role in the development of your successful economic and social programs.

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Mr. President, you have my deepest admiration for the courage and vigor with which you have pursued the policies which have led your nation forward with success and confidence. I extend to you and to the people of Tunisia the warmest greetings of the American people on this special day. You may be assured of my continuing commitment to the closest possible relations between Tunisia and the United States.

Warm personal regards,

Gerald R. Ford

His Excellency
Habib Bourguiba
President of the Republic of Tunisia
Tunis

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THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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TO: Mr. George Springsteen
Exec. Secretary

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Regards.

adolf

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Dear Mr. President:

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you and to your fellow citizens my warmest congratulations on the historic occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Tunisia.

This is a very special time for you and your people. In recognition of the deep admiration we have for you and your country, and in the spirit of close friendship our countries have enjoyed for two decades, I have asked Vice President Rockefeller to represent the United States of America at your celebration.

Throughout the twenty years of your independence, the United States and Tunisia have enjoyed warm and constructive relations based on mutual respect and on our common belief in human dignity. This is a relationship in which the United States takes great pride. We are committed to maintaining and strengthening our ties in the future.

Your wise leadership of Tunisia and its benefits to your people are recognized and applauded throughout the world. Tunisia, guided by moderation and realism, has served as a model for many other nations. We are gratified to have been able to play a role in the development of your successful economic and social programs.

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Mr. President, you have my deepest admiration for the courage and vigor with which you have pursued the policies which have led your nation forward with success and confidence. I extend to you and to the people of Tunisia the warmest greetings of the American people on this special day. You may be assured of my continuing commitment to the closest possible relations between Tunisia and the United States.

Warm personal regards,

His Excellency
Habib Bourguiba
President of the Republic of Tunisia
Tunis

Retyped:GRF:BS:feg:3/17/76

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5E

LDX MESSAGE RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SITE B

S/S # 7605878

MAR 19 11 40 '76

'76 MAR 19 AM 11 4

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

LDX MESSAGE NO. 2261 CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE No. Pages 2

FROM: (Officer name) S/S (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Springsteen/Scowcroft re French Translation of Bourguib

LDX TO: (Agency)	DELIVER TO:	Letter Extension	Room No.
NSC - Mrs.	Jeanne Davis		

REMARKS: PER REQUEST URGENT

S/S Officer:

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE S/S 7605878

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 19, 1976

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Vice President Rockefeller's Visit to Tunisia - French Translation of Letter to President Bourguiba

Attached is a copy of the French Translation of President Ford's letter to President Bourguiba.

C. Arthur Borg
for George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment

President Ford's letter to President Bourguiba

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18 mars 1976

Monsieur le Président,

C'est avec grand plaisir que je vous adresse, ainsi qu'à vos concitoyens, mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses à l'occasion de la date historique du vingtième anniversaire de l'indépendance de la République tunisienne.

Cette journée revêt une signification toute particulière pour vous-même et pour votre peuple. En témoignage de l'admiration profonde que nous éprouvons pour vous et pour votre pays, et dans l'esprit d'amitié étroite qui unit nos pays depuis deux décennies, j'ai chargé le Vice Président Rockefeller de représenter les Etats-Unis d'Amérique à votre commémoration.

Depuis que votre pays est indépendant, les Etats-Unis et la Tunisie jouissent de relations chaleureuses et constructives fondées sur le respect mutuel et notre foi commune en la dignité humaine. C'est un rapport dont les Etats-Unis s'enorgueillissent. Nous nous devons de maintenir et de renforcer nos liens dans l'avenir.

La sage direction que vous donnez à la Tunisie et les avantages que votre peuple en retire sont reconnus et applaudis de par le monde. Guidée par la modération et le réalisme, la Tunisie a servi de modèle à de nombreuses autres nations. C'est pour nous un motif de satisfaction que d'avoir pu participer au succès de vos programmes économiques et sociaux.

Monsieur le Président, mon admiration la plus profonde vous est acquise pour le courage et la vigueur dont vous avez fait preuve en poursuivant les politiques qui ont mené votre pays de l'avant dans le succès et la confiance. En ce grand jour, je vous adresse, j'adresse au peuple tunisien, les souhaits les plus chaleureux du peuple américain. Soyez assuré que j'ai pris l'engagement de maintenir les relations les plus étroites possibles entre la Tunisie et les Etats-Unis.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Président, à ma très haute et très chaleureuse considération.

/signé/ Gerald R. Ford

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MEMORANDUM THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

54

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

1470
ACTION

March 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT B

SUBJECT: Letter to President Bourguiba of Tunisia

The Vice President will represent you and the American people at celebrations in honor of the 20th anniversary of Tunisian independence, on Saturday, March 20, in Tunis. This visit, as a first stop in the Vice President's travels to the Far East, will be a concrete and much appreciated manifestation of US interest in Tunisia.

Since this is a special occasion, I believe it would be fitting for you to send a warm letter to President Bourguiba, to be presented by the Vice President. President Bourguiba would be extremely pleased; he still regrets that his health made it impossible for him to visit you last year. US-Tunisian relations are excellent, in considerable part a result of President Bourguiba's immense affection for our country over the past twenty years.

The proposed letter for your signature to Bourguiba at Tab A extends your congratulations and your admiration for him and for the Tunisian people. Mr. Hartmann's office has cleared the text of the proposed letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to President Bourguiba of Tunisia at Tab A.
[The Vice President will carry this with him when he departs on Friday.]

Tab A passed to VP 3/18/76 RCM

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1470
Add-on

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION
March 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: ROBERT B. OAKLEY

SUBJECT: Presidential Message to President Bourguiba of Tunisia -- The Vice President's Visit

State recommends that the Vice President carry a letter from the President to President Bourguiba of Tunisia when he visits there this Saturday. Though we understand that the Vice President may not be doing this for other stops, this is a special occasion in Tunis by virtue of its 20th anniversary and I agree a Presidential letter would be appropriate.

Attached is the State draft. At Tab I is a memo for the President with a revised suggested letter cleared with Doug Smith.

RECOMMENDATION: That you forward the memo at Tab I to the President seeking his signature on the letter to President Bourguiba. We should have the final signed version by Thursday afternoon since the Vice President departs Friday.

_____ APPROVE TAB I

_____ APPROVE TAB I AS AMENDED

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SUGGESTED LETTER

Dear Mr. President:

It gives me particular pleasure to congratulate you and the Tunisian people on the twentieth anniversary of Tunisia's independence, and I am asking Vice President Rockefeller to deliver this letter to you personally on my behalf and on behalf of the people of the United States of America.

Tunisia and the United States have enjoyed close and mutually beneficial relations during the entire twenty years of Tunisia's independence. This is a relationship in which the United States takes great pride, and one we will strive to maintain and strengthen in the future.

We admire the dramatic progress which the Tunisian people have made since independence and are gratified that we have been able to participate with your Government in many of your successful economic and social development programs.

His Excellency
Habib Bourguiba,
President of the Republic of Tunisia,
Tunis.

Department of State

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The results of your wise and pragmatic leadership of the Tunisian people since independence are well known and recognized throughout the world community. Tunisia, guided by its sense of moderation and realism, has indeed served as a model for many other nations as they have entered the post-colonial period.

It gives me great personal satisfaction to send to you, Mr. President, and to the Government and people of Tunisia, the warmest greetings of the American people on this twentieth anniversary of your Country's independence. May Tunisia continue to progress and prosper in friendship with all nations.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

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SK

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JON HOWE

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS

SUBJECT: Vice Presidential Public Statements--Tunisia

At Tab B are State's suggested arrival statement, departure statement and toast for the visit to Tunisia. At Tab A are our revised texts of each of these three items.

The proposed letter from the President to President Bourguiba is being staffed separately.

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A

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5M

Suggested Arrival Statement

It is with great personal pleasure that I come to Tunisia to represent President Ford and the American people at the ceremonies marking the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence. I have long admired the wisdom and courage of Tunisia's President Bourguiba. I look forward to meeting with him again, and to conveying the best wishes of my Government and the American people on this historic day. The United States values highly the close relations we have enjoyed with Tunisia over the past two decades. We intend to make every effort to ensure that these friendly ties are maintained and strengthened in coming years.

Tunisia is a good and honored friend. The United States admires in particular the energetic and pragmatic manner in which Tunisia has a pproached the challenge of development. It has set a dramatic example for many other developing countries as they have emerged from colonial rule. We have also admired the ability of the Tunisian people to construct new and mutually beneficial ties both with old associates and with the many new countries that have appeared on the world scene in the past twenty years.

Indeed, Tunisia can be said to have only friends. One needs no other measure that this to gauge the success of Tunisia's first twenty years as an independent nation. This can only augur well for Tunisia's continued progress toward the full achievement of her goals and aspirations.

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I am grateful for this opportunity to share with President Bourguiba, his Government, and the Tunisian people the commemoration of this historic day, and to wish them continued success in the future.

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5A

Suggested Toast (if required)

I am deeply honored to have been asked by President Ford to represent him and the American people at these ceremonies marking the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Prime Minister's gracious remarks on behalf of the other delegations.

First, if I may, I would like to note the very close relationship which exists between my country and Tunisia. The United States has been closely associated with Tunisia for the past two decades, and this association is based on a sense of mutual respect and friendship. It is also based on the common belief that national goals are best set by the consent of the governed through democratic processes, and that a duty of any state is the protection of the political, economic and social rights of their citizenry.

The efforts of the Tunisian people have shown impressive results. The important lesson of the Tunisian experiment is that political, economic and social gains can be achieved and freedom preserved if wise leadership is coupled with a broadly supported sense of national purpose respecting the rights of others. These are the two essentials to progress, peace, and democracy. President Bourguiba and the Tunisian people can justly be proud of the fruits of their effort.

The United States and Tunisia have not always agreed on all international issues, but we have never disagreed on the role of reason

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and moderation in world affairs. Tunisia has always supported dialogue rather than confrontation among states, and this is essential if peaceful solutions are to be found to the many problems which still face the world community.

I believe that the clear mark of the success of the Tunisian experiment is that Tunisia enjoys cordial relations with virtually every country of the world. It can truly be said that Tunisia is the friend of all, and we raise our glasses, Mr. Prime Minister, that this shall ever be.

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Departure Statement

My only regret is that I have been able to spend so short a time in Tunisia on this brief trip representing President Ford and the American people on the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence.

We have seen the enormous economic and social progress which has been achieved in the few years since Tunisia gained its independence, but even more importantly, we have seen that Tunisia has been able to make and preserve these successes while remaining true to its democratic ideals. President Bourguiba and the Tunisian people share in the credit for this achievement.

I have valued the opportunity of meeting again with President Bourguiba and Prime Minister Nouira, and of hearing their views on the many issues in which the United States and Tunisia have a common interest. I shall, upon my return, convey to President Ford their thoughtful comments.

The United States looks forward to the continuation of the excellent relations we enjoy with the Government and people of Tunisia. My wife joins me in thank you for your unforgettable hospitality. We hope to visit again soon.

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B

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5R

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 7605045

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 11, 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Visit of Vice President Rockefeller to Tunisia for the 20th Anniversary of Tunisian Independence, March 20-21, 1976

Attached are the suggested texts for public statements which the Vice President may wish to make during his visit to Tunisia. These include arrival and departure statements, and a toast should one be required. As the visit will take place on a Saturday and the Embassy will be officially closed, Ambassador Seelye and the Vice President's office believe it would be inconvenient for Mr. Rockefeller to address the staff in Tunis. Consequently no talking points for this meeting are included.

Also attached is a draft letter from President Ford to President Bourguiba.

C. Arthur Borg
for George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Arrival Statement
2. Departure Statement
3. Toast
4. Letter from President to President Bourguiba

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Suggested Arrival Statement

It is with great personal pleasure that I come to Tunisia to represent President Ford and the American people at the ceremonies marking the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence. I have long admired the wisdom and courage of Tunisia's President Bourguiba and I look forward to meeting with him again, and to conveying the best wishes of my Government and the American people on this historic day. The United States values highly the close relations we have enjoyed with Tunisia over the past two decades, and we will make every effort to ensure that these friendly ties are maintained and strengthened in coming years.

Tunisia is a good and honored friend, and the United States admires the energetic and pragmatic manner in which Tunisia has approached the challenge of development. It has set a worthy example for many other developing countries as they have emerged from colonial rule. We have also admired the ability of the Tunisian people to put past differences behind them, and to construct new and mutually beneficial ties both with old associates and with the many new countries that have appeared on the world scene in the past twenty years.

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Indeed Tunisia can be said to have no enemies, and only friends. One needs no other measure than this to gauge the success of Tunisia's first twenty years as an independent nation. This can only augur well for Tunisia's continued progress toward achieving in full measure the high goals which have been set by the Tunisian people.

I am grateful for this opportunity to share with President Bourguiba, his Government, and the Tunisian people the commemoration of this historic day, and to wish them continued success in the future.

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Departure Statement

My only regret is that I have been able to spend so short a time in Tunisia on this brief trip representing President Ford and the American people on the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence.

We have seen the enormous economic and social progress which has been achieved in the few years since Tunisia gained its independence, but even more importantly, we have seen that Tunisia has been able to make and preserve these successes while remaining true to its democratic ideals. President Bourguiba and the Tunisian people share in the credit for this achievement.

I have valued the opportunity of meeting again with President Bourguiba and Prime Minister Nouira, and of hearing their views on the many issues in which the United States and Tunisia have a common interest. President Ford will be interested in their thoughtful comments.

The United States looks forward to the continuation of the excellent relations we enjoy with the Government and people of Tunisia, and my wife joins me in thanking you for your unforgettable hospitality. We hope to visit again soon.

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Suggested Toast (if required)

I am deeply honored to have been asked by President Ford to represent him and the American people at these ceremonies marking the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence, and I appreciate the opportunity of responding to the Prime Minister's gracious remarks on behalf of the other delegations.

First, if I may, I would like to note the very special relationship which exists between my country and Tunisia. The United States has been closely associated with Tunisia for the past two decades, and this association is based on a sense of mutual respect and friendship. It is also based on the common understanding that governments exist to achieve the national goals which peoples set for themselves through democratic processes, and that states must also be committed to the protection of the inalienable political, economic and social rights of their citizenry.

The efforts of the Tunisian people have indeed shown impressive results. The important lesson of the Tunisian experiment is that political, economic and social gains can be achieved and freedom preserved if wise leadership is coupled with a broadly supported sense of national purpose respecting the rights of others. These are the two essentials to progress, peace, and

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democracy. President Bourguiba and the Tunisian people can justly be proud of the fruits of their effort.

The United States and Tunisia have not always agreed on all international issues, but we have never disagreed on the role of reason and moderation in world affairs. Tunisia has always supported dialogue rather than confrontation among states, and this is essential if peaceful solutions are to be found to the many problems which still face the world community.

I believe that the clear mark of the success of the Tunisian experiment is that Tunisia has no enemies, and that she enjoys cordial relations with virtually every country of the world. It can truly be said that Tunisia is the friend of all, and we raise our glasses, Mr. Prime Minister, that this shall ever be.

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5V

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 16

FOR JEANNE DAVIS

Jeanne,

You could send the attached package to Jon Howe.

Bob Oakley

1470

SW

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 7605045

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 11, 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Visit of Vice President Rockefeller to Tunisia for the 20th Anniversary of Tunisian Independence, March 20-21, 1976

Attached are the suggested texts for public statements which the Vice President may wish to make during his visit to Tunisia. These include arrival and departure statements, and a toast should one be required. As the visit will take place on a Saturday and the Embassy will be officially closed, Ambassador Seelye and the Vice President's office believe it would be inconvenient for Mr. Rockefeller to address the staff in Tunis. Consequently no talking points for this meeting are included.

Also attached is a draft letter from President Ford to President Bourguiba.

for C. Arthur Borg
George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

already forwarded
1. Arrival Statement
2. Departure Statement
3. Toast
4. Letter from President to President Bourguiba

Staff

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5X

Suggested Arrival Statement

It is with great personal pleasure that I come to Tunisia to represent President Ford and the American people at the ceremonies marking the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence. I have long admired the wisdom and courage of Tunisia's President Bourguiba and I look forward to meeting with him again, and to conveying the best wishes of my Government and the American people on this historic day. The United States values highly the close relations we have enjoyed with Tunisia over the past two decades, and we will make every effort to ensure that these friendly ties are maintained and strengthened in coming years.

Tunisia is a good and honored friend, and the United States admires the energetic and pragmatic manner in which Tunisia has approached the challenge of development. It has set a worthy example for many other developing countries as they have emerged from colonial rule. We have also admired the ability of the Tunisian people to put past differences behind them, and to construct new and mutually beneficial ties both with old associates and with the many new countries that have appeared on the world scene in the past twenty years.

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I am grateful for this opportunity to share with President Bourguiba, his Government, and the Tunisian people the commemoration of this historic day, and to wish them continued success in the future.

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Departure Statement

My only regret is that I have been able to spend so short a time in Tunisia on this brief trip representing President Ford and the American people on the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence.

We have seen the enormous economic and social progress which has been achieved in the few years since Tunisia gained its independence, but even more importantly, we have seen that Tunisia has been able to make and preserve these successes while remaining true to its democratic ideals. President Bourguiba and the Tunisian people share in the credit for this achievement.

I have valued the opportunity of meeting again with President Bourguiba and Prime Minister Nouira, and of hearing their views on the many issues in which the United States and Tunisia have a common interest. President Ford will be interested in their thoughtful comments.

The United States looks forward to the continuation of the excellent relations we enjoy with the Government and people of Tunisia, and my wife joins me in thanking you for your unforgettable hospitality. We hope to visit again soon.

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Suggested Toast (if required)

I am deeply honored to have been asked by President Ford to represent him and the American people at these ceremonies marking the twentieth anniversary of Tunisian independence, and I appreciate the opportunity of responding to the Prime Minister's gracious remarks on behalf of the other delegations.

First, if I may, I would like to note the very special relationship which exists between my country and Tunisia. The United States has been closely associated with Tunisia for the past two decades, and this association is based on a sense of mutual respect and friendship. It is also based on the common understanding that governments exist to achieve the national goals which peoples set for themselves through democratic processes, and that states must also be committed to the protection of the inalienable political, economic and social rights of their citizenry.

The efforts of the Tunisian people have indeed shown impressive results. The important lesson of the Tunisian experiment is that political, economic and social gains can be achieved and freedom preserved if wise leadership is coupled with a broadly supported sense of national purpose respecting the rights of others. These are the two essentials to progress, peace, and

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democracy. President Bourguiba and the Tunisian people can justly be proud of the fruits of their effort.

The United States and Tunisia have not always agreed on all international issues, but we have never disagreed on the role of reason and moderation in world affairs. Tunisia has always supported dialogue rather than confrontation among states, and this is essential if peaceful solutions are to be found to the many problems which still face the world community.

I believe that the clear mark of the success of the Tunisian experiment is that Tunisia has no enemies, and that she enjoys cordial relations with virtually every country of the world. It can truly be said that Tunisia is the friend of all, and we raise our glasses, Mr. Prime Minister, that this shall ever be.

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Retyped:1470

Dear Mr. President:

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you and to your fellow citizens my warmest congratulations on the historic occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Tunisia.

This is a very special time for you and your people. In recognition of the deep admiration we have for you and your country, and in the spirit of close friendship our countries have enjoyed for two decades, I have asked Vice President Rockefeller to represent the United States of America at your celebration.

Throughout the twenty years of your independence, the United States and Tunisia have enjoyed warm and constructive relations based on mutual respect and on our common belief in human dignity. This is a relationship in which the United States takes great pride. We are committed to maintaining and strengthening our ties in the future.

Your wise leadership of Tunisia and its benefits to your people are recognized and applauded throughout the world. Tunisia, guided by moderation and realism, has served as a model for many other nations. We are gratified to have been able to play a role in the development of your successful economic and social programs.

Mr. President, you have my deepest admiration for the courage and vigor with which you have pursued the policies which have led your nation forward with success and confidence. I extend to you and to the people of Tunisia the warmest greetings of the American people on this special day. You may be assured of my continuing commitment to the closest possible relations between Tunisia and the United States.

Warm personal regards,

His Excellency
Habib Bourguiba
President of the Republic of Tunisia
Tunis

Retyped:GRF:BS:feg:3/17/76

Retyped:1470 560

1470
ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: Letter to President Bourguiba of Tunisia

The Vice President will represent you and the American people at celebrations in honor of the 20th anniversary of Tunisian independence, on Saturday, March 20, in Tunis. This visit, as a first stop in the Vice President's travels to the Far East, will be a concrete and much appreciated manifestation of US interest in Tunisia.

Since this is a special occasion, I believe it would be fitting for you to send a warm letter to President Bourguiba, to be presented by the Vice President. President Bourguiba would be extremely pleased; he still regrets that his health made it impossible for him to visit you last year. US-Tunisian relations are excellent, in considerable part a result of President Bourguiba's immense affection for our country over the past twenty years.

The proposed letter for your signature to Bourguiba at Tab A extends your congratulations and your admiration for him and for the Tunisian people. Mr. Hartmann's office has cleared the text of the proposed letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to President Bourguiba of Tunisia at Tab A. [The Vice President will carry this with him when he departs on Friday.]

5CC

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President:

It is with great~~est~~ pleasure that I extend to you and to your fellow citizens my warmest congratulations on the historic occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Tunisia.

This is a very special time for you and your people. In ~~view~~ recognition of the ~~high respect and~~ deep admiration we have for you and your country, and in the spirit of close friendship our countries have enjoyed for two decades, I have asked Vice President Rockefeller to represent the United States of America at your celebration.

Throughout the twenty years of your independence, the United States and Tunisia have enjoyed warm and constructive relations based on mutual respect and on our common belief in human dignity. This is a relationship in which the United States takes great pride. We are committed to maintaining and strengthening our ties in the future.

Your wise leadership of Tunisia and its benefits to your people are recognized and applauded throughout the world. Tunisia, guided by moderation and realism, has served as a model for many other nations. We are gratified to have been able to play a role in the development of your successful economic and social programs.

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Mr. President, you have my deepest admiration for the courage and vigor with which you have pursued the policies which have led your nation forward with success and confidence. I extend to you and to the people of Tunisia the ~~very~~ warmest greetings of the American people on this special day. You ~~can~~ may be assured of my continuing commitment to the closest possible relations between Tunisia and the United States.

Warm personal regards,

His Excellency
Habib Bourguiba
President of the Republic of Tunisia
Tunis

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MEMORANDUM

1470
ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: Letter to President Bourguiba of Tunisia

The Vice President will represent you and the American people at celebrations in honor of the 20th anniversary of Tunisian independence, ~~this~~ on Saturday, March 20, in Tunis. This visit, as a first stop in the Vice President's travels to the Far East, will be a ~~very~~ concrete ~~timely expression~~ and much appreciated manifestation of US interest in Tunisia.

Since this is a special occasion, I believe it would be fitting for you to send a warm letter to President Bourguiba, to be presented by the Vice President. President Bourguiba would be extremely ~~appreciative~~; pleased; he still regrets that his health ~~has~~ made it impossible for him to visit you ~~in Washington~~. US-Tunisian relations are excellent, in ~~large~~ considerable part a result of President Bourguiba's immense affection for our country over the past 20 years. last year.

The proposed letter for your signature to Bourguiba at Tab A extends your congratulations and your admiration for him and for the Tunisian people. Mr. Hartmann's office has cleared the text of the proposed letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to President Bourguiba of Tunisia at Tab A. [The Vice President will cary this with him when he departs on Friday.]

SEE

Dear Mr. President:

It is with greatest pleasure that I extend to you and to your fellow citizens my warmest congratulations on this historic occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Tunisia.

This is a very special time for you and your people. In view of the high respect and admiration we have for you and your country, and in the spirit of close friendship our countries have enjoyed for two decades, I have asked Vice President Rockefeller to represent the United States of America at your celebration.

Throughout the twenty years of your independence, the United States and Tunisia have enjoyed warm and constructive relations based on mutual respect and on our common believe in democratic traditions. This is a relationship in which the United States takes great pride. We are committed to maintaining and strengthening our ties in the future.

Your wise leadership of Tunisia and its benefits to your people are recognized and applauded throughout the world. Tunisia, guided by moderation and realism, has served as a model for many other nations. ~~For our part,~~ We are gratified to have been able to play a role in ~~the~~ development of your successful ~~By any standards,~~ ~~it has been dramatic.~~ economic and social development programs.

Mr. President, you have my deepest admiration for the courage and vigor with which you have pursued the policies which have led your nation forward, with success and confidence. I extend to you and to the people of Tunisia the very warmest greetings of the American people on this special day. You can be assured of my continuing commitment to the closest possible relations between Tunisia and the United States.

~~With~~ Warm personal regards,

His Excellency
Habib Bourguiba
President of the Republic of Tunisia
Tunis

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State draft
5/8

SUGGESTED LETTER

Dear Mr. President:

It gives me particular pleasure to congratulate you and the Tunisian people on the twentieth anniversary of Tunisia's independence, and I am asking Vice President Rockefeller to deliver this letter to you personally on my behalf and on behalf of the people of the United States of America.

Tunisia and the United States have enjoyed close and mutually beneficial relations during the entire twenty years of Tunisia's independence. This is a relationship in which the United States takes great pride, and one we will strive to maintain and strengthen in the future.

We admire the dramatic progress which the Tunisian people have made since independence and are gratified that we have been able to participate with your Government in many of your successful economic and social development programs.

His Excellency
Habib Bourguiba,
President of the Republic of Tunisia,
Tunis.

Department of State

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The results of your wise and pragmatic leadership of the Tunisian people since independence are well known and recognized throughout the world community. Tunisia, guided by its sense of moderation and realism, has indeed served as a model for many other nations as they have entered the post-colonial period.

It gives me great personal satisfaction to send to you, Mr. President, and to the Government and people of Tunisia, the warmest greetings of the American people on this twentieth anniversary of your Country's independence. May Tunisia continue to progress and prosper in friendship with all nations.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

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NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC MO	DOC DA	RECD MO	RECD DA	RECD HR	LOG NUMBER	INITIAL ACTION O
3	11	3	11	19	7601470	Oakley

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SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES ____ SCOWCROFT ✓ HYLAND ____ DAVIS ____

FROM: SECSTATE ____ SECDEF ____ DCI ____ STATE EXSEC ✓ OTHER ____

S/S 7605045 X REF ____

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SUBJECT: Draft Pres ltr to Bourguiba & Draft texts for VP use re VP trip to Tunisia for 20th anniversary of Independence 20-21 Mar 1976

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION	ACTION	CONCURRENCE	COORDINATE	INFO	REC CY FOR
ADV SYS S'CROFT WGH				X	
STAFF SECRETARY					
CONGRESSIONAL					
ECONOMIC					
EUR/CANADA/OCEANS					
FAR EAST/PRC					
INTELLIGENCE					
LATIN AMERICA					
MID EAST/NO. AFRICA	X				X
NSC PLANNING					
PROGRAM ANALYSIS					
SCIENTIFIC					
SUB-SAH/AFRICA/UN					
Howe, J	(ADVANCE CY)			X	
Leonard, M					X

ACTION REQUIRED

- MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT ____
- MEMO FOR PRES X
- REPLY FOR ____ ✓
- APPROPRIATE ACTION ____
- MEMO ____ TO ____
- RECOMMENDATIONS ____
- JOINT MEMO ____
- REFER TO ____ FOR: ____
- ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ____
- CONCURRENCE ____
- DUE DATE: 3/16

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	STATUS	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	DUE	CY TO
~~3/4~~	~~Cathy~~	~~Pres~~				
3/15				Copies for Memo to Howe		
3/16		Draft	X	Pres for decision	3/19	
3/18				PRES SGD LTR TO BOURGUIBA		
3/19			C	Orig Hand Carried to VP		
3/19				Rec'd State Memo 7605878		HOWE ✓ OAKLEY ✓

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH 3/16/76 w/attach

NOTIFY

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: Cy Ldr FORWARDED TO 3/18-76

U.P. 3/18

SPECIAL INDEXING:

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED X

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RÉPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE

Le Président

Carthage, le 4 Juin 1976

Monsieur le Président,

Les Etats-Unis d'Amérique célèbrent cette année le bicentenaire de leur indépendance.

Cette commémoration revêt aux yeux de la Tunisie une signification profonde, car l'évènement avait marqué l'amorce d'un vaste mouvement de l'Histoire en même temps que l'affermissement et la mise en oeuvre de principes de gouvernement auxquels nous sommes particulièrement attachés.

Pour ces raisons, j'ai la conviction que tous les peuples qui se nourrissent aux sources de la démocratie et de la liberté prennent une part sincère à cette commémoration.

Pendant des décennies, j'ai personnellement mené un combat acharné pour le triomphe de ces principes et pour l'établissement entre nations de relations fondées sur la confiance et le respect mutuels.

Ce fut pour moi un rêve, c'est aujourd'hui une réalité pour mon pays.

Au cours de cette longue lutte et aux plus sombres moments de la période coloniale, j'ai veillé avec un soin particulier à sauvegarder les liens d'amitié et d'estime que nos deux Etats ont établis dès l'aube de l'histoire des Etats-Unis.

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.../...

Vous comprendrez pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, j'aurais eu le plus grand plaisir à prendre part, personnellement, avec vous, aux manifestations commémoratives du bicentenaire.

Je suis amené, hélas, à y renoncer, mon état de santé ne me permettant plus de supporter des écarts d'horaires importants.

Aussi je tiens à déléguer mon fils pour me représenter personnellement et exprimer, au nom de la Tunisie, notre volonté de maintenir et de renforcer les rapports d'amitié et de coopération qui existent entre nos deux pays.

Le présent qu'il vous remettra en mon nom, la Tunisie veut y voir non seulement le symbole antique de la paix, mais aussi l'arbre dont la fécondité séculaire continue de récompenser la persévérance dans l'effort.

Qu'il soit l'expression de l'hommage que le peuple tunisien rend à la fois à l'oeuvre d'édification et de paix de la nation américaine.

Je saisis cette occasion pour adresser au peuple américain ami mes félicitations chaleureuses et mes voeux sincères de prospérit

A vous-même, Monsieur le Président, j'adresse les plus vifs souhaits de succès, de bonheur et de santé en vous priant de croire à ma très haute et amicale considération.

Bourguiba

Habib BOURGUIBA

Président de la République Tunisienne

Son Excellence

Monsieur Gerald R. FORD

Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 56844
MM/MSS
French

TUNISIAN REPUBLIC
The President

Rec'd 6/5

Carthage, June 4, 1976

Mr. President:

This year the United States of America is celebrating the bicentennial of its independence. This commemoration has deep meaning for Tunisia, because the event marked the beginning of a vast movement of history and the strengthening and application of principles of government to which we are particularly attached.

For these reasons, it is my conviction that all peoples who draw strength from the sources of democracy and freedom join sincerely in this commemoration. For decades I personally waged a stremuous battle for the triumph of these principles and for the establishment among nations of relations based on trust and mutual respect.

This was my dream and it is today a reality for my country. During that long struggle and in the darkest moments of the colonial period, I was especially careful to safeguard the bonds of friendship and esteem which our two States established at the dawning of United States history.

His Excellency
Gerald R. Ford,
President of the
United States of America.

You will understand, Mr. President, why it would have been my greatest pleasure to take part personally with you in the events commemorating the bicentennial. Regrettably, I shall be unable to attend as my state of health no longer permits extensive travel.

Therefore, I am appointing my son to represent me personally and to express, on behalf of Tunisia, our desire to maintain and to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between our two countries.

The gift which my son will deliver to you on my behalf represents for Tunisia not only the ancient symbol of peace, but also the tree whose age-long fruitfulness continues to reward perseverance in the struggle. May it serve to express the homage of the Tunisian people to your nation's work of enlightenment and of peace.

I avail myself of this occasion to convey to the American people my warm congratulations and sincere wishes of prosperity. To you, Mr. President, I extend the most ardent wishes for success, happiness, and health, and beg you to accept the assurances of my very high and friendly consideration.

[s] Bourguiba

Habib Bourguiba
President of the Tunisian Republic

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